

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ABOUT VOLUNTEERING TO SERVE
ON COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS**

Q: How many different citizen committees, commissions and boards are there in the County?

- There are about 50 of these committees, commissions and boards at any one time with several hundred volunteers serving.

Q. What are some of the functions?

- The functions of the committees vary and membership is diverse. The Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, and Library Board all have a major impact on issues affecting the county. The Planning Commission makes recommendations on rezonings, special use permits, and other land issues. Others, like the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, the Airport Commission, the Cable TV Committee, and Fifth Planning District Commission are regional in nature and look at issues from a broader perspective. Ad Hoc Committees are appointed to deal with a specific project or issue. Examples of these are the Comprehensive Plan Citizens Advisory Committee and the School Facilities Study Committee.

Q. Why are these volunteer boards so important to local government?

- The volunteer boards are an important asset to local government because they offer a citizen's unique perspective to issues. The County Staff and Board of Supervisors are able to be advised directly of the needs and concerns that are of importance to the community. These citizens know what the community wants and needs because they are the community. The many volunteers who serve on these different committees are deeply interested in the issues that their committee deals with. An example of this concern would be the Planning Commission. In addition to making recommendations on rezoning requests and special use permits, they are also deeply involved with the Comprehensive Plan for Roanoke County. The numerous committees, commissions and boards are a valuable resource to both the Board of Supervisors and the County Staff.

Q. Do the volunteers receive any compensation for serving on the committees, commissions or boards?

- Only three committees provide for salaries or reimbursements to be made to the volunteer members. These are the Board of Zoning Appeals, Industrial Development Authority and Planning Commission. In addition, the Board of Equalization, whose members are appointed by the Circuit Court Judges, receive compensation.

Q. Are there any special requirements to serve on a County Committee?

- In most cases, the only requirement is a desire to serve and an interest in a particular issue. Some committees, such as the Transportation and Safety Commission, or the Building Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals, ask for specific areas of expertise. Many committee members are appointed by magisterial district and most require County residency, except in unusual circumstances.

Q. How do I volunteer to serve on a Committee?

- There are two ways to volunteer for the 25 to 30 vacancies that are generally available each year. Since many appointments are made by magisterial district, one way is to contact your supervisor and let him know that you are interested in serving. Another is to complete a volunteer application form which you can get from the Clerk's Office. Your application will be kept on file and active for one year. Please call 772-2005 for further information or to have an volunteer application form mailed to you.